



Fall 1999

North Dakota State Department of Health
Division of Water Quality

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North Dakota Wellhead Protection

Source Water Assessment Program Update

Previous *Wellhead Protection* newsletters have discussed the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), a requirement under the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The SWAP requires public water systems with their own wells or surface water intakes to complete a water protection assessment that includes three elements: (1) a delineation of the source water protection area (a wellhead area or watershed area), (2) an inventory of potential contaminant sources in the protection area, and (3) a determination of the susceptibility of the public water supply to the inventoried sources. Under the North Dakota SWAP, the North Dakota Department of Health's Division of Water Quality will complete the minimum required elements at no charge to the system. However, the source inventory will be conducted using databases rather than a field survey.

If you receive this newsletter, your public water system likely will be included in the SWAP. Unlike the Wellhead Protection (WHP) Program, which focuses on public water systems with wells, the SWAP will apply to **all** public water systems, whether ground water- or surface water-dependent and whether community or noncommunity. The only exception is if the public water system purchases 100 percent of its drinking supply from another public system (100 percent consecutive user).

The WHP Program continues unchanged under the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments for ground water-dependent public water systems. The SWAP serves as an overall "umbrella" of source water protection for all public water systems. Under that umbrella, the WHP Program will continue for ground water-dependent systems. If your system has joined the WHP Program, you are encouraged to continue implementing program elements. Systems that have completed the necessary WHP Program elements meet all SWAP requirements.

Similar to the North Dakota WHP Program approved in 1992, the state's SWAP required Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval. The Division of Water Quality submitted the SWAP plan to EPA in February 1999, and the plan was officially approved by EPA in October 1999. The division now has until May 2003 to complete source water assessments for all public water systems that are not 100 percent consecutive users. Completion of the wellhead delineations for current WHP Program participants will continue to be a priority after SWAP approval.

As noted earlier, systems in the WHP Program should initiate all program elements after their wellhead protection areas are delineated and should update the elements as needed. No action is necessary at this time for ground water-dependent systems that do not participate in the WHP Program. These systems will be included in the program once their wellhead protection areas are delineated as part of the SWAP. Although the minimum required elements for the SWAP will be completed by the Division of Water Quality, community water systems are encouraged to enhance the program by conducting site-specific surveys of potential contaminants, initiating management and contingency plans and developing public awareness programs.

*For information about drinking water issues,
the Wellhead Protection Program and the
Source Water Assessment Program, call the
Safe Drinking Water Hotline at
1.800.426.4791
or visit the EPA Office of Ground Water and
Drinking Water website at
www.epa.gov/ogwdw.*

Public Water Systems Receive Wellhead Protection Award

The North Dakota Department of Health recently recognized 45 community water systems for their successful initiation of all elements of the Wellhead Protection Program during the past two years. These systems include the cities of **Anamoose, Ashley, Carrington, Carson, Christine, Gackle, Glenfield, Glen Ullin, Goodrich, Hebron, Kenmare, LaMoure, Larimore, Leeds, Lincoln, Linton, Lisbon, Maddock, Marmarth, McVile, Minnewaukan, Minto, Napoleon, New Rockford, Pekin, Reeder, Robinson, Steele, Strasburg, Underwood, Valley City, Velva, Wishek, Zap and Zeeland**, along with the rural water systems of **Barnes Rural Water District, Cass Rural Water Users Inc., Central Plains Water District, Dakota Water Users Inc., R & T Water Supply Association, Stutsman Rural Water District and Traill County Rural Water Users Inc.**

Plaques of appreciation were awarded to these systems at the North Dakota Water & Pollution Control Conference held Oct. 20, 21 and 22, 1999, in Minot. The Department of Health expresses its gratitude to the governing boards, employees and customers of these systems, whose initiative and hard work are key factors in the success of the Wellhead Protection Program.

*For more information on WHP or
SWAP, contact Dave Glatt or
Bill Gunnerson at 701.328.5210.*



north dakota
groundwater
a resource to protect

North Dakota Wellhead Protection

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